Wilson, Kimberly R.

From: Walk, Roger A.
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2001 8:22 AM
To: Wilson, Kimberly R.
Subject: FW: Study blames smoking ban for 77 layoffs at area bars - Canada

Kim,
Please print all emails from 'Hough, Melissa' for my return next Wednesday and move the email into my 'transient' afterwards.

Thanks,
Roger

-----Original Message-----
From: **Hough, Melissa**
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2001 5:20 PM
To: Blanco, James P.; Burenstein, Danielle; Callahan, Steve; Culley, Liz; Geovannello, Frank M.; Hirnikel, Daniel J.; Lau, Raymond W.; Maggio, Jim F.; Serghini, Philip; Shorte, Cecil J.; Walk, Roger A.
Cc: Stojsavljevich, Michael
Subject: Study blames smoking ban for 77 layoffs at area bars - Canada

FYI . . .

Study blames smoking ban for 77 layoffs at area bars
Medical officer says PUBCO survey lacks 'credibility'

Bev Wake
The Ottawa Citizen

Saturday, November 03, 2001

The city's tough new smoking bylaw has forced pubs and bars to lay off 77 employees and cut shifts by more than 3,500 hours, while contributing to a 22-per-cent drop in business this September compared with the same month last year, a new survey suggests.

"We feel this is just the edge of the wedge," said Ed Mitchell, owner of the Duke of Somerset and a board member of the Pub and Bar Coalition of Ontario. "The news is only likely to worsen."

The survey was based on a poll of 54 members of PUBCO, an organization opposed to the city's smoking bylaw. Of those businesses surveyed, all but two reported a decline in business in September.

The survey results were unveiled at the Duke of Somerset yesterday. Patrons were smoking in the upstairs tavern and the pub's walls were decorated with posters advertising a rally against the bylaw outside City Hall next Wednesday.

Mr. Mitchell said if the survey results were extrapolated to include the city's 300 pubs and bars, about 450 people may have already lost their jobs. He predicted businesses would struggle even more, now that cold weather has forced bar owners to close their outdoor patios, where people have been able to smoke.

The city's medical officer of health dismissed the survey results, however, saying a survey of just 54

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PUBCO members was like "cherry picking." Dr. Robert Cushman also said it's too soon to measure the impact of the bylaw and the economy could also have played a role in any downturn.

"I don't think you can put much weight in this," he said. "It's only September. We're monitoring this and what our consultants have said is you really need more than a single month to make an assessment.

"I think they lose credibility by coming forward this soon."

Alex Munter, chairman of the city's health committee, also questioned PUBCO's numbers.

"This is the same group at Labour Day that said half the bars and restaurants were going to be bankrupt by the end of October," he said.

A survey completed for PUBCO in August suggested 60 of 113 businesses expected to be out of business if the ban continued. To date, no members have closed their doors, PUBCO secretary Janet Langley said yesterday.

In October, the city contracted KPMG to conduct an independent analysis of the economic impact of the bylaw.

Mr. Munter, chairman of the city's health committee, said he doubted the smoking bylaw was behind any drop in business at bars. "Perhaps next we'll have PUBCO telling us Nortel's troubles have been caused by the smoking bylaw."

Given that two-third of bars surveyed by PUBCO reported reducing shifts in September, by a combined 3,514 hours, servers at those bars would have seen a combined $75,000 drop in wages, Mr. Mitchell said.

Of those bars surveyed, 40 per cent said they were not complying with the bylaw. Bars with patios, making up 44 per cent of those surveyed, reported a 20-per-cent drop in business this September, compared with a 24-per-cent decline reported by bars without patios.

Mr. Mitchell dismissed arguments that the drop in business had anything to do with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S., saying the decline in business began in August when the smoking ban was implemented.

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